

all income taxes and you actually get a check from the government for more than you ever owed in income taxes?" The House majority leader supported Fleischer's claims yesterday when he said, "To me, it's a little difficult to give tax relief to people that don't pay income taxes."

Mr. Speaker, what the President's press secretary seems to forget and what the majority leader seems to ignore is that these workers do pay Federal taxes. 7.65 percent of their earnings go to pay for Social Security and Medicare. They are in fact paying taxes. Bob Herbert of the New York Times called the Republican action "the reverse Robin Hood" and he wrote, "The fat cats will get their tax cuts. But in the new American plutocracy, there won't even be crumbs left over for the working folks at the bottom of the pyramid to scramble for."

After realizing that the Republicans had left this provision out of the final tax bill, several of my Democratic colleagues introduced a bill earlier this week that would repair the damage from this irresponsible tax package. Congressman RANGEL'S legislation would provide greater tax relief to the families of 19 million children and the legislation is fully paid for so this relief would not add to the record deficits created by the President and the Republicans in Congress.

Yesterday, Democrats in the House said they would not allow business to continue as usual around here until Republicans agreed to address the Rangel legislation. Not only did Majority Leader TOM DELAY say the House would not consider the Rangel legislation, but in attempting to justify this action, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) said, "There are a lot of other things that are more important than that."

Mr. Speaker, how can the majority leader say that helping these children is not important? I think it is very sad, Mr. Speaker, because the Republican leader's statement is not shocking to anyone who watches what goes on around here. In fact, unlike some of his Republican colleagues, at least Congressman DELAY tells it like it is. And what it is, is that the Republican leadership continues to do the important work for the wealthiest elite in this country at the detriment of low- and middle-income families. Just 2 weeks after the Republicans passed their tax bill, the Tax Policy Institute released a report yesterday showing that the middle class tax share is set to rise, a surprise to no one. The report, which analyzed the three tax initiatives President Bush has signed into law, concluded Americans earning between \$28,000 and up to \$337,000 will soon take on a greater share of the taxes than they had before President Bush took office. The only people that benefit are the millionaires.

Mr. Speaker, I just hope that one day these Republican attacks on low- and middle-class people will come to an

end, but so far they are not coming to an end and I expect them to continue with this Republican leadership.

REPORT CONCERNING IRAQ'S WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, as the President arrived in Europe during this recent and historic journey, culminating, we hope, in progress today in the nation of Jordan, several days ago he was greeted with what can only be described as a hysterical European press attack on what were called the lies and distortions of this administration relative to its pronouncements about Iraq's weapons of mass destruction in the months leading up to Operation Iraqi Freedom.

After that hysteria in the European press, even some editorial pages in the United States have gone forward with similar recriminations and I thought that it would be useful tonight, Mr. Speaker, to rise and talk about the facts of weapons of mass destruction. I do so having literally just come this morning from a briefing by the Under Secretary for Arms Control for the United States Department of State, Mr. John Bolton, perhaps one of the most distinguished and informed leaders in our Nation, on the subject of arms control and weapons proliferation.

Mr. Bolton spoke before us today of the efforts within Iraq, the Iraq survey group, that he believed would bear fruit soon, in his words, in finding both evidence of a WMD program and also ultimately weapons of mass destruction themselves. He said that he believed that we would be soon finding weapons and the means of production in due course. But where comes his confidence, Mr. Speaker? Perhaps it comes with a brief recitation of the history of the region. People are very quick to forget, especially in the European press that seems to suggest that this idea of Iraq having weapons of mass destruction was somehow invented out of whole cloth.

Many seem to forget that it was Iraq themselves, 18 April 1991, that provided an initial declaration required under U.N. resolution 687 declaring themselves, Iraq declared themselves in the possession of chemical weapons and materials and 53 al Hussein and Scud type long-range ballistic missiles. At that point in April of 1991, they denied the presence of any biological weapons. By May, Iraq submitted a revised declaration covering additional chemical weapons and a refinement of the missile declaration. And then after pressure from UNSCOM, Iraq admitted in August of 1991 that they had a biological research program for defensive military purposes.

According to UNSCOM estimates, Iraq acknowledged that they were in

possession of 10,000 nerve gas warheads, 1,500 chemical weapons and 412 tons of chemical weapon agents. 1991. As Under Secretary Bolton said today, it has been the unchanged position throughout the Clinton administration and through the Bush administration that those weapons are unaccounted for to this day. Both administrations held, in Mr. Bolton's words as a representative of the State Department, precisely the same view of these weapons, that were not invented by some political spinmeister in the run-up to Operation Iraqi Freedom, they were admitted to by the regime in Baghdad, who went on year after year delaying inspections, denying their presence and refusing to prove their destruction, leading up to the 1998 expulsion of U.N. weapons inspectors, resulting in President Clinton's attack on Iraq with cruise missiles. And President Clinton, of course, gave the reason at that time that he needed to "attack Iraq's nuclear, chemical and biological programs and their capacity to threaten their neighbors."

And so I thought it important tonight, after hearing on the International Relations Committee, Mr. Speaker, from John Bolton, the Under Secretary of Arms Control, that there is confidence that the Iraq survey group at the State Department will bear fruit. We will continue to find evidence, like the mobile labs, like the unarmed aerial vehicles, we will continue to find evidence of a WMD program in Iraq.

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That confidence arises not from the heart of the White House or the West Wing, but, rather, from the pronouncements of the regime in Iraq about their own possession a decade ago of hundreds of tons of chemical and biological agents. The facts speak for themselves.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S. 222, ZUNI INDIAN TRIBE WATER RIGHTS SETTLEMENT ACT AND S. 273, GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK LAND EXCHANGE ACT

Mr. DREIER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 108-140) on the resolution (H. Res. 258) providing for consideration of the Senate bill (S. 222) to approve the settlement of the water rights claims of the Zuni Indian Tribe in Apache County, Arizona, and for other purposes, and for consideration of the Senate bill (S. 273) to provide for the expeditious completion of the acquisition of land owned by the State of Wyoming within the boundaries of Grand Teton National Park, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.